

SITUATION REPORT NO. 5
INCIDENT NO. 2000-12
DATE: January 3, 2001 TIME: 9:00 a.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Severe Weather -- rain, freezing rain, snow, wind, tornadoes and winter storms in November 2000 impacted western, north central and eastern North Dakota, causing power outages, as well as road and school closures.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: A Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)/State Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA), conducted in December, identified \$925,102 in potentially eligible Public Assistance damages. Rural electric cooperatives sustained the brunt of identified damages, resulting from tornadoes, heavy rain, snowfall and blizzard conditions. These damages are attributed to a far-reaching low-pressure system that entered the state on November 1, spawning tornadoes in central North Dakota. The system also spread heavy rain, snowfall and blizzard conditions across the state. Wind gusts of up to 50 miles per hour (mph) and heavy, wet snow toppled power lines and poles. Extensive power outages, some as long as three weeks, left several hundred residential customers without service. Permanent repairs to the electrical distribution system, as well as mitigation measures, will require months of work.

In northwest North Dakota, storm conditions made it impossible for farmers and ranchers to haul hay to their livestock and into storage areas. Emergency managers in this region reported that farmers and ranchers might be forced to sell breeding stock.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous report.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: In response to the November events and subsequent Preliminary Damage Assessment, Governor John Hoeven, on December 19, 2000 requested President Clinton to issue a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration. Governor Hoeven received notification on December 29, 2000, that the President issued the requested declaration. The declaration, FEMA-1353-DR-ND, makes available Public Assistance Program funds to eligible Rural Electric Cooperatives in nine counties: Benson, Bowman, Cavalier, Divide, Golden Valley, McKenzie, Ramsey, Towner and Williams. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds are available for all 53 counties.

Governor Hoeven appointed Brigadier General Michael J. Haugen, the Adjutant General of the North Dakota National Guard, as State Coordinating Officer for FEMA-1353-DR-ND. The Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) is Steven R. Emory of FEMA's National FCO Program.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional assistance has been requested at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: FEMA has provided technical assistance staff to support the PDA.
9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director